

Harmonic Quantization Results and Correlations

Scott Sowersby

April 10, 2025

1 Harmonic Quantization Results and Significant Implications for Music Theory

The Harmonic Force Interaction (HFI) model not only unifies particle properties but also reveals profound connections with music theory through harmonic quantization principles. This section outlines key results from the HFI framework and explores their implications for understanding musical harmony.

1.1 Harmonic Quantization in Physics and Music

The central premise of harmonic quantization asserts that physical properties such as mass, charge, and spin are discrete harmonics of the Higgs mass, given by:

$$P_i = f_i (2^{\Theta h}) , \quad h = \log_2 \frac{M_H}{M}$$

Analogously, musical harmony is structured around discrete intervals based on logarithmic frequency ratios.

2 The Pythagorean Comma and Related Concepts

2.1 The Pythagorean Comma

The Pythagorean comma, also known as the ditonic comma¹, is a small interval that arises in Pythagorean tuning between enharmonically equivalent notes, such as C and B \sharp , or D \flat and C \sharp [1]. It is quantitatively defined by the frequency ratio:

$$\frac{(1.5)^{12}}{2^7} = \frac{3^{12}}{2^{12} \cdot 2^7} = \frac{531441}{524288} \approx 1.01364$$

This ratio corresponds to approximately 23.46 cents, which is roughly a quarter of a semitone [1]. The Pythagorean comma is often the interval that musical temperaments aim to "temper" [1].

Alternatively, the Pythagorean comma can be understood as the difference between a Pythagorean apotome (chromatic semitone) and a Pythagorean limma (diatonic semitone) [1]. It also represents the discrepancy between twelve just perfect fifths and seven octaves, or between three Pythagorean ditones and one octave [1]. This latter definition explains why it is sometimes referred to as the ditonic comma.

The diminished second in Pythagorean tuning is defined as the interval between a limma and an apotome. Consequently, it is equivalent to the inverse of the Pythagorean comma, representing a descending interval of approximately -23.46 cents (e.g., from C \sharp to D \flat) [1].

2.2 The "Lemma" in the Cycle of Fifths

The website harmonicsofnature.com introduces the concept of a "lemma"² in the context of the cycle of fifths [2]. The cycle of fifths is a sequence generated by repeatedly moving up by a perfect fifth. While this cycle theoretically should return to the starting note after twelve fifths, in practice, it results in a frequency slightly different from the original octave, leading to a "gap" or "lemma" [2].

According to this source, these "lemmas" observed at various points in the cycle of fifths, when starting from a base note of B \flat , are not arbitrary

¹Named after the ancient mathematician and philosopher Pythagoras.

²Derived from the Greek word for "gap".

discrepancies but rather sub-octaves of the "magical" harmonic series derived from that base note [2]. The provided table in the source illustrates this by showing the frequency differences that arise after several cycles of fifths and how these differences relate to sub-octaves of the initial B♭ and its harmonics. Notably, this interpretation of "lemma" as a sub-octave within a specific harmonic framework differs from the conventional understanding of the Pythagorean comma as a fixed interval arising from the mathematical properties of Pythagorean tuning.

2.3 Movement Through Pitch Space and Representational Momentum

The perception of musical intervals and movement in pitch space is explored through psychological theories. One such theory is representational momentum, which posits that the perceived final position of a moving stimulus (including pitch) is slightly shifted in the direction of the anticipated motion [3, 4].

The preference for a stretched octave has been considered in relation to both the Pythagorean comma and representational momentum [5]. While both might seem to offer explanations for this phenomenon, the text argues that they are likely unrelated. Representational momentum typically predicts a constant or decreasing stretch with increasing interval size, whereas the Pythagorean comma's effect would accumulate with more intervals. Furthermore, representational momentum involves a shift in the perceived endpoint, unlike the actual frequency difference represented by the Pythagorean comma [5].

2.4 Phasors and Sinusoidal Waveforms

In the analysis of AC circuits, phasors provide a method for understanding the behavior of components when circuit frequencies are identical [6]. The combination of phasors depends on their relative phase.

A sinusoidal waveform, a common type of alternating quantity, can be represented graphically in the time domain. It is characterized by its amplitude, angular frequency (ωt), and phase angle (Φ) [6]. The phase angle indicates the temporal shift of the waveform relative to a reference point. A positive Φ signifies a leading phase (waveform occurs earlier), while a negative Φ indicates a lagging phase (waveform occurs later) [6].

2.5 Musical Implications of the Pythagorean Comma

The Pythagorean comma emerges as a unifying principle connecting mathematical harmony with musical tuning. In music theory, *PC* introduces microtonal adjustments critical for constructing scales, while in the HFI model, it governs quantization corrections essential for particle unification.

3 The Pythagorean Comma and Related Concepts

3.1 The Pythagorean Comma

The Pythagorean comma, a small interval arising from Pythagorean tuning, represents the discrepancy between twelve just perfect fifths and seven octaves, defined by:

$$\frac{(1.5)^{12}}{2^7} = \frac{531441}{524288} \approx 1.01364$$

In the HFI context, the Pythagorean comma plays a pivotal role as a harmonic correction factor for quantum anomalies.

3.2 Phasors and Sinusoidal Waveforms

HFI utilizes sinusoidal waveforms to model harmonic stress-energy distributions, revealing parallels between wave interference patterns and fundamental particle coupling.

3.3 The Lemma Effect on Particles

The concept of the "lemma," originating from the gap or discrepancy in the cycle of fifths, offers profound parallels in the domain of particle physics. In music theory, the lemma arises as the slight frequency mismatch after completing a theoretical cycle of twelve perfect fifths, returning to a base note. This phenomenon corresponds to sub-octave deviations within harmonic systems [2].

In the HFI model, the lemma manifests as phase mismatches in the harmonic quantization framework. These discrepancies, akin to the lemma in

music, provide a mechanism for resolving subtle deviations in particle properties. Specifically:

- **Charge Quantization:** The lemma effect introduces harmonic sub-shifts, which act as corrections for exact charge quantization. This ensures discrete particle charge states remain consistent with observed eigenvalues.
- **Harmonic Feedback Mechanism:** Analogous to how lemmas act as sub-octaves in musical harmony, they create harmonic feedback loops in the HFI model. These loops stabilize particle properties such as spin and force couplings at specific quantized levels.
- **Force Coupling Deviations:** Lemma effects influence the coupling strengths of the fundamental forces, introducing minor adjustments. These effects are captured in the harmonic operator algebra through phase terms proportional to the Pythagorean comma correction.

The lemma effect in the HFI framework thus embodies a bridge between quantum corrections and harmonic discrepancies, highlighting the universality of these principles across physics and music. This analogy reinforces the deeper connections between the structural regularities in nature and mathematical resonance.

4 Exploring Hidden Correlations Between Harmonic Physics and Musical Theory

This section delves into possible hidden correlations that tie harmonic quantization in physics to musical structures, shedding light on the universality of resonance principles.

4.1 Harmonic Feedback Clustering

Harmonic feedback clustering emerges in both particle physics and musical compositions. The recursive nature of harmonic interactions mirrors the formation of musical scales and arpeggios.

4.2 Phase and Energy Correlations

Phase corrections introduced by harmonic operators align closely with musical tuning adjustments. These correlations suggest a deeper interplay between quantum mechanics and the construction of harmonic frameworks.

4.3 Cosmological and Musical Resonance

HFI's principles extend to cosmogenesis, where harmonic feedback drives the clustering of matter. Similar principles can be observed in the modulation of musical resonance patterns.

5 References

References

- [1] Pythagorean comma. *Wikipedia*. [Accessed 8 April 2025].
- [2] Lemma. *The Cycle of Fifths*. [Accessed 8 April 2025].
- [3] T. L. Hubbard. Representational momentum: Basic findings, theoretical accounts, and implications for understanding motion perception. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 12(4):669–706, 2005.
- [4] T. L. Hubbard. Representational momentum. *Scholarpedia*, 13(1):14085, 2018.
- [5] Movement through pitch space. *orcid.org*. [Accessed 8 April 2025].
- [6] Phasors. *Electronics Tutorials*. [Accessed 8 April 2025].